

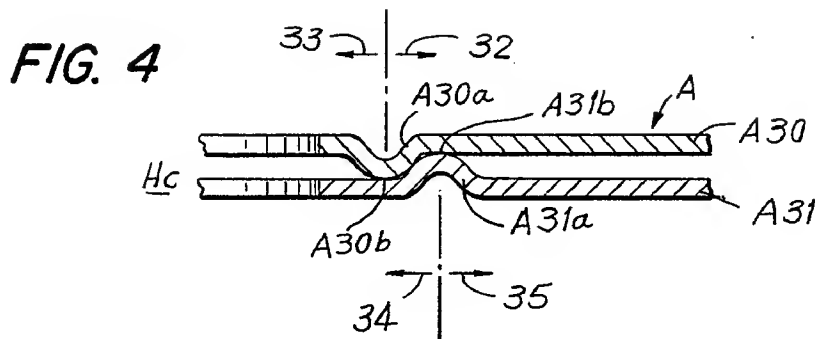
REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 39-42 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, moot. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 37 has been amended to recite that the full bead of the functional layer and the full bead of the support ring are formed in the same direction and the full bead of the functional layer rests in the full bead of the support ring. Support for these amendments is found in Paragraph [0033] of the original disclosure and in Figures 1a and 1b. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the above-discussed amendments to claim 37, the rejection of claims 37, 38 and 43-51 as being anticipated by Udagawa is respectfully traversed. The examiner's attention is invited to Figure 4 of Udagawa, which is reproduced below. As shown, the beads of the upper and lower layers face towards one another, i.e. they are formed in opposing directions. As such, they cannot also rest within each other, as recited in amended claim 37. Beads formed in opposing directions are also shown in Figures 6-11 of Udagawa. Moreover, Column 2, Lines 16-19 of Udagawa recite "[w]hen the first and second plates are assembled together, the first bead faces and abuts against the second bead so that the first and second top portions are located with a predetermined distance away from each other" (emphasis added).



Further, since amended claim 37 recites that the beads in the functional layer and support ring are formed in the same direction and rest within each other, this implicitly

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also means that the distances from the combustion chamber to the tips or top portions are approximately identical. However, Udagawa teaches away from such a construction. Specifically, Column 2, Lines 11-15 of Udagawa recite that “[t]he first bead includes a first top portion while the second bead includes a second top portion. The distance from the first hole to the first top portion is slightly different from the distance from the second hole to the second top portion” (emphasis added). For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 37, 38 and 43-51 as being anticipated by Udagawa is improper and should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims depend, ultimately from claim 37 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. The dependent claims distinguish from their parent and one another by reciting Applicant’s invention in further detail.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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